



Counselor, Social Worker & Marriage and Family Therapist Board

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Social Worker Professional Standards Committee (SWPSC) Minutes **Thursday, July 19, 2012**

Members Present: Ms. Jennifer Hadden, Mr. Bob Nelson, Mr. Steve Polovick

Staff Present: Mr. William Hegarty, Ms. Tracey Hosom, Mr. Andy Miller, Ms. Patty Miller, Ms. Tamara Tingle

1) Meeting Called to Order

Mr. Nelson called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

2) Election of New Chairperson

The SWPSC elected Mr. Polovick as its new chairperson.

3) Discussion/Approval of the July 19 & 20 Agenda

Mr. Polovick asked if any changes or discussion were needed for the July 19 & 20 Agenda. Mr. Nelson asked to add a discussion of the Board's Professional Employment Reference form. Ms. Miller asked to add a discussion of the SWPSC's blanket approval of all CEUs approved by the NASW National Chapter. Mr. Miller asked to add an item that had been brought up by the ASWB, and asked to move the issue regarding Ms. Beth Scherer out of the Working Meeting section and into the Correspondence section. Mr. Nelson motioned to approve the agenda. Ms. Hadden seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4) Approval of the May 17 & 18 Minutes

Mr. Polovick asked if any changes or discussion were needed for the May 17 & 18 minutes. Mr. Nelson made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Hadden seconded the motion. Motion carried.

5) Approval of Applications for Licensure

A motion was made by Mr. Nelson to approve the 329 LSW applicants and 144 LISW applicants approved by the staff, and the 17 SWA applicants registered by the

staff, from May 17, 2012 through July 18, 2012. Seconded by Ms. Hadden. Motion carried.

6) Investigations

a) Closed Cases

Mr. Nelson made a motion to close the following cases, as he had determined that no actionable offenses had been found. Ms. Hadden seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2011-230	Scope of practice. Close with caution.
2011-243	Custody issues. No violation.
2012-70	Competency. No violation.
2012-80	Non-sexual boundaries. Close with caution.
2012-83	Conflict of interest. Close with strong caution.
2012-85	Billing fraud. Allegation not substantiated; referred.
2012-86	Billing fraud. Allegation not substantiated; referred.
2012-88	Custody issues. Close with strong caution.
2012-89	Non-sexual boundary. Allegation not substantiated.
2012-113	Billing/Records. Close with strong caution.
2012-116	Competency. Allegation not substantiated.
2012-118	Improper Billing. Close with caution.
2012-124	Non-sexual boundaries. Close with caution.
2012-129	Competency. No violation.

b) Consent Agreements

1) Ms. Peggy Davenport: Beginning in November 2011 and January 2012, Ms. Davenport entered into a sexual relationship with two recently termination clients, in violation of Ohio Revised Code 4757.36(C)(1) and Ohio Administrative Code 4757-5-04(C). Ms. Davenport admits to these allegations. The Board is allowing Ms. Davenport to surrender her social work license in lieu of potential disciplinary action. She will not be eligible to re-apply for licensure through this Board for three years.

Ms. Hadden made a motion to accept the consent agreement between the Board and Ms. Davenport based on the evidence in the document. Mr. Polovick seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2) Ms. Gayle L. Betley: Ms. Betley renewed her social work license through October 17, 2013. In January 2012, she was audited for compliance with continuing education requirements. Ms. Betley was not able to provide proof of the 30 hours needed to have renewed her license, a violation of Ohio Revised Code 4757.36(C)(1) and Ohio Administrative Code 4757-11-01(C)(20)(b). Ms. Betley admits to these allegations. Ms. Betley notified the Board that she wished

to surrender her license due to health issues. The Board will allow Ms. Betley to surrender her license in lieu of other potential disciplinary action.

Mr. Nelson made a motion to accept the consent agreement between the Board and Ms. Betley based on the evidence in the document. Mr. Polovick seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3) Ms. Roslyn M. Henderson: On or about February 9, 2012, Ms. Henderson was convicted and sentenced to one count of Theft, a fourth degree felony. Ms. Henderson was ordered to pay restitution of \$1400 to her previous employer, Buckeye Ranch, and placed under community control for 18 months of supervision. Ms. Henderson admits to these statements. Her actions constitute a violation of Ohio Revised Code 4757.36(C)(5). Her license to practice social work is suspended for a period of two and a half years.

Ms. Hadden made a motion to accept the consent agreement between the Board and Ms. Henderson based on the evidence in the document. Mr. Nelson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4) Ms. Ashley M. Box-Bechtel: While employed at Arrowhead Behavioral Health from 8/12/2009 through 2/3/2012, Ms. Box-Bechtel failed to maintain appropriate boundaries by entering into a sexual relationship with an ex-client of the agency within 5 years of termination. The relationship continues. This inappropriate conduct constitutes a violation of Ohio Revised Code 4757.36(C)(1) and Ohio Administrative Code 4757-5-04(C) and (D). Ms. Box-Bechtel admits to these allegations. Her license is suspended for a period of 20 months; after the suspension and upon employment, she must be monitored in all aspects of her social work practice and receive face-to-face monitoring for a period of two years. Mr. Polovick made a motion to accept the consent agreement between the Board and Ms. Box-Bechtel based on the evidence in the document. Mr. Nelson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

c) Goldman Reviews

1) Connie L. Debarr: Mr. Nelson moved to revoke Ms. Debarr's social work license because Ms. Debarr did not comply with a Board audit for continuing education as required by Ohio Revised Code 4757.36(C)(1) and Ohio Administrative Code 4757-11-01(C)(20)(b). Ms. Hadden seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2) Ada M. Jones: Mr. Nelson moved to revoke Ms. Jones's social work license because Ms. Jones did not comply with a Board audit for continuing education as required by Ohio Revised Code 4757.36(C)(1) and Ohio Administrative Code 4757-11-01(C)(20)(b). Ms. Hadden seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3) Ronald G. Bosca: Mr. Nelson moved to revoke Mr. Bosca's social work license because Mr. Bosca did not comply with a Board audit for continuing education as required by Ohio Revised Code 4757.36(C)(1) and Ohio

Administrative Code 4757-11-01(C)(20)(b). The Board did receive a letter dated 6/17/2012 wherein Mr. Bosca states that he is giving up his license, but included no material relevant to the audit. Ms. Hadden seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4) Jeremy A. Dowell: Mr. Nelson moved to revoke Mr. Dowell's social work assistant registration because Mr. Dowell did not comply with a Board audit for continuing education as required by Ohio Revised Code 4757.36(C)(1) and Ohio Administrative Code 4757-11-01(C)(20)(b). Ms. Hadden seconded the motion. Motion carried.

5) Christine Noble: Mr. Nelson moved to revoke Ms. Noble's social work license because Ms. Noble did not comply with a Board audit for continuing education as required by Ohio Revised Code 4757.36(C)(1) and Ohio Administrative Code 4757-11-01(C)(20)(b). Mr. Polovick seconded the motion. Motion carried.

6) Stephanie S. Adams: Mr. Polovick moved to revoke Ms. Adams's social work license because Ms. Adams did not complete 10 CEU hours as required by a Consent Agreement approved in July 2011, and did not respond to a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing. This is a violation of Ohio Revised Code 4757.36(C)(1) and Ohio Administrative Code 4757-11-01(C)(21). Ms. Hadden seconded the motion. Motion carried.

7) Discussion of NASW National Chapter CEU Approval

Ms. Miller notified the SWPSC that she had recently found issues with CEU programs and providers approved by the NASW National Chapter. Right now the Board grants a blanket approval to NASW National, accepting any CEUs that are approved by them.

The Board recently denied the provider INR Seminars, as their programs did not cover appropriate topics for social work continuing education. INR then sought approval from NASW National and were accepted, so now the Board is forced to accept a provider they had earlier denied. NASW National has not been responsive at all to the Board's inquiries in this and other matters, and have declined to comply with the Board's requirement that all text-only distance learning programs must contain 10,000 words per credit hour. If NASW National were to apply for a normal CEU Provider status, the Board would be able to regulate their program content.

The SWPSC discussed the issue, and came to a consensus that the Board will file a rule change to no longer accept all programs approved by NASW National for CEU. After the rule change is filed, only CEUs approved by the Board, the Association of Social Work Boards, and the NASW Ohio Chapter will be accepted as pre-approved for Ohio social work licensees.

8) Correspondence

- a) The Board received an email from an LISW who was initially denied attendance of an MMPI Testing program offered by Pearson, as Pearson believed that social workers were unable to complete this type of testing. The Board referred the licensee to Ohio Administrative Code 4757-5-06 and 4757-21-03, and the licensee was able to attend the training after providing this information to Pearson.
- b) The Board received a Professional Employment Reference form from an LSW, Beth Scherer. On the form, Ms. Scherer indicated that she had received supervision from a Registered Nurse in 1979 and 1980, and would like this to count toward her supervision requirements for the LISW. Ms. Scherer was not licensed as an LSW until 2010, and normally any supervision completed before LSW licensure does not count, but social work was not a regulated profession in Ohio in 1980 and Ms. Scherer would not have even been able to apply for LSW licensure at that time.

The SWPSC discussed the issue. It was determined that when the Board was formed, a specific “grandfathering” time period was set up in which individuals could provide proof of supervised work experience completed before LSW licensure, and be licensed as an LISW. This grandfathering time period was written into the laws and rules at that time, and the period has long since ended and the rules have been changed. Ms. Scherer will need to complete her supervised work experience under the current rules.

9) New Business

Mr. Nelson raised a concern that Section C of the Professional Employment Reference form, which contains a list of job duties acceptable for supervised work experience, is too broad. He stated that the list needed to be tightened to ensure that the LSWs being supervised were actually completing MSW-level work, and not general social service tasks. Mr. Polovick suggested requiring licensees to submit a statement of goals before beginning supervision. It was suggested the form would also differentiate between clinical and generalist work. Mr. Miller stated that staff would examine how other states are handling supervision documentation, and create a mock-up of a new PER form for the next meeting.

10) Working Meeting

The SWPSC proceeded with a working meeting at 11:10 a.m. to review pending applications for licensure, files to be audited, CEU Programs & Providers, Related Degree course worksheets, and Licensure Renewal Issues.

11) Meeting Adjourned

Mr. Polovick adjourned the meeting at 12:58 p.m.

Social Worker Professional Standards Committee (SWPSC) Minutes
Friday, July 20, 2012

Members Present: Ms. Jennifer Hadden, Mr. Don McTigue, Mr. Bob Nelson,
Mr. Steve Polovick

Staff Present: Mr. Andy Miller, Mr. Jim Rough

Guests Present: Ms. Danielle Smith, NASW-OH Executive Director

1) Meeting Called to Order

Mr. Polovick called the meeting to order at 9:14 a.m.

2) Old Business

The SWPSC had no old business to discuss.

3) NASW Report

Ms. Smith stated that NASW's National Chapter will soon be hiring a new Executive Director, and this is expected to bring a change to the CEU approval process. Meanwhile, NASW-OH continues to offer a diverse range of CEUs, and offer enough programs to meet a licensee's full 30-credit requirement.

Legislation was recently passed that would no longer require small nursing homes to have a social worker on staff. On the brighter side, the Governor's office is working to cut the state budget and move additional funding into health and human services. NASW is also lobbying for student loan debt relief for social workers.

Mr. Polovick noted that he had heard the Governor's office is asking Boards to do more to license convicted felons, and asked if Ms. Smith was familiar with this. Ms. Smith responded that she had not heard of this being an issue that would affect social work licensing, and was likely an effort aimed at Boards that automatically reject applicants convicted of certain crimes.

Mr. Nelson asked if the NASW was investigating whether there would be enough social workers in Ohio to maintain a high level of service in light of the Affordable Care Act. Ms. Smith was not aware of any existing studies of this issue, but it is generally believed that most of the impact will be felt by primary care health providers and not mental health practitioners.

4) Executive Committee Report

Mr. Nelson reported that Mr. Rough's Executive Directors Report highlighted issues discussed in the Executive Committee Meeting, and there were no further issues to discuss.

5) CEU Committee Report

Ms. Hadden reported that Paula Broome is letting CEU providers know that CEU certificates will need to be pre-printed in the future, and cannot be handwritten. There is concern that Supervision CEU requirements are unclear, and do not make it plain whether they refer to clinical supervision or training supervision. The SWPSC discussed this issue and determined that a clear new definition of supervision CEU requirements would require a much longer discussion than the time allowed, and tabled the issue for further discussion.

It was inquired as to whether ethics and supervision CEUs could be banked from one renewal period to the next. Mr. Rough indicated that this was allowed under the current rules, and the SWPSC agreed. The SWPSC also discussed general CEU banking, and whether CEUs could still be banked from one renewal period to the next if that previous renewal period took place before the rule change allowing CEU banking came into effect. Mr. Rough indicated that this was allowed under the current rules, and the SWPSC agreed. Mr. Rough stated that this was a rare issue, since only 1% of licensees currently attempt to bank hours.

Ms. Broome had also asked the SWPSC to examine a course called Compassion Fatigue for supervision content and approval. Mr. Miller suggested that the course did not meet requirements, as it dealt only with the relationship between a work supervisor and an employee, and not with the supervisor-licensee-client relationship that is unique to social work supervision. The course would need to include content on how these issues affect the licensee's client, and how the supervisor can help to lessen that impact.

6) Executive Director's Report

Mr. Rough reported that he continues to work with the Governor's office to fill Board appointments, and those appointments continue to be reviewed. House Bill 567 has been introduced, which will include a number of changes to the Board's Laws if and when the bill passes. The Board's fiscal year ended with an excess appropriation of nearly \$75,000 in unspent funds. Mr. Rough will be filing the Five Year Rule Review changes very soon. The bill to license Art Therapists in Ohio has not moved any further forward, and the bill has likely stalled.

7) ASWB Score Posting

Mr. Rough was recently contacted by the ASWB to complete a survey. The survey asks if the Board has any opinions about the ASWB posting different schools' exam pass rates on their website for public viewing. Mr. Rough felt that these pass rates may not be very relevant in terms of promoting the social work programs due to the small annual sample sizes.

The SWPSC decided that they would encourage the ASWB to post these scores. Pass rates are already available to the schools if they know to ask for them, and it only seemed fair to make the rates more widely available. One beneficial result may be an increased collaboration between the ASWB and the Council on Social Work Education.

8) Working Meeting

The SWPSC proceeded with a working meeting at 10:23 a.m. to review pending applications for licensure, files to be audited, CEU Programs & Providers, and Licensure Renewal Issues.

In the course of the working meeting, Mr. Polovick made a formal motion to rescind blanket pre-approval of all CEUs approved by the NASW National Chapter, and to only allow pre-approval for CEUs approved by the Ohio CSWMFT, the ASWB, or the NASW-Ohio Chapter. Mr. Nelson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

10) Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

Mr. Steve Polovick, Chairperson